

# RISKS OF BUYING HOME OXYGEN ONLINE

**Oxygen is a drug which requires a prescription and can be dangerous if bought online for home oxygen therapy**



Home oxygen therapy involves breathing in air from an oxygen cylinder or concentrator machine that contains a higher concentration of oxygen than normal.

It is used for adults and children who do not have enough oxygen in their blood.

A clinical specialist will assess you to determine whether home oxygen therapy is required. Please do not purchase oxygen online yourself.

If required, they will prescribe you medically graded oxygen treatment/equipment from one of England's approved oxygen suppliers (Air Liquide, BOC, Vivisol or Baywater).

**If you or your child feel you need oxygen therapy, please contact your GP for an assessment**



Buying non-prescribed oxygen online and administering oxygen incorrectly can lead to:

## Health Risks

**Lung and vital organ damage | Oxygen toxicity | Brain and eye issues in premature babies | Oxygen related death**

## Safety Risks

Buying oxygen online without an initial home safety assessment increases the risks of fire and safety hazards.

It is prohibited to smoke whilst using oxygen or being around oxygen equipment.

**Contact the London Fire Brigade for more information on fire risk assessments or to order a smoke alarm**

**Telephone: 080 0028 4428**

**Email: [smokealarms@london-fire.gov.uk](mailto:smokealarms@london-fire.gov.uk)**

**Website: [www.london-fire.gov.uk](http://www.london-fire.gov.uk)**

**For more information, please visit [www.nhs.uk/conditions/home-oxygen-treatment](http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/home-oxygen-treatment)**